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**AUG 25 2000**

**CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

August 23, 2000

RE: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Mr. Ritchie  
Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ritchie,

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Cal-Fed must recognize the importance of working with farmers on a voluntary habitat conservation basis. That way, the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

The simple fact is that farmers can't provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage with adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years, so water won't have to be taken away from farms. There must be long range planning to provide for our future.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,



Peter Orradre

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Rep. George Radanovich  
Rep. Gary A. Condit  
State Senator Jim Costa  
Governor Gray Davis  
State Senator Richard Monteith  
Assembly Member George House  
Assembly Member Dean Florez  
Madera County Supervisors